What is claimed is:

- 1. A process apparatus, comprising:
- a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and
 - a judgment unit calculating an index relating to an amount of the discussion and judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.
- 2. The process apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a notification unit notifying participants of the electronic conference of a holding of the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

- 3. The process apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising
- a reservation unit making reservations for facilities needed to hold the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference,

said notification unit notifies expected participants of information about reserved facilities.

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- 4. The process apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reservation unit makes reservations for transportation needed for the expected participants to participate at the face-to-face conference; and
- said notification unit notifies the expected participants of information about reserved transportation.
- 5. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit uses a number of speakers in the discussion as the index, and if the number of speakers exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.
- 6. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit uses a number of utterances in the discussion as the index, and if the number of utterances exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.
 - 7. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage unit stores information about the discussion in a tree structure; and
- said judgment unit uses a depth of the tree 25 structure as the index, and if the depth of the tree

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structure exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

- 8. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit uses a data amount of the information about the discussion as the index, and if the data amount exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.
- 9. A process apparatus, comprising:
 - a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and
 - a judgment unit calculating an index relating to a possibility of the discussion diverging and judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.
 - 10. A process apparatus for executing a process of an asynchronous electronic conference among a plurality of areas in a distributed environment, comprising:
 - a communications unit transmitting information about a discussion at the electronic conference between areas;
- a storage unit storing the information about the discussion; and

a judgment unit judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on an amount of the discussion.

5 11. A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program enabling a computer to execute a process, said process comprising;

calculating an index relating to an amount of a discussion at an electronic conference; and

judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.

12. A process method comprising;

recording information about a discussion at an electronic conference;

calculating an index relating to an amount of the discussion; and

judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.

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13. A process apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and

judgment means for calculating an index relating to an amount of the discussion and judging whether to

hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.